

What is a driver license?

A driver license is evidence of authority to operate a motor vehicle. The two types of driver licenses are **probationary** or **regular**.

What is a probationary license?

A probationary license is always a class D and/or class M license issued for 2 years from the licensee's next birthday. DMV issues probationary licenses to:

- new drivers
- persons with foreign or international licenses
- persons reinstating revoked or canceled probationary licenses
- new residents surrendering a license expired for more than 6 months, or with less than 3 years of driving experience or under the age of 21

Drivers convicted of 2 or more driving offenses with a point penalty are assessed double demerit points if they have a probationary license.

What is a regular driver license?

DMV issues a regular license after completion of the probationary period. The license is valid for 8 years and can be any combination of the 5 classes (A, B, C, D, M) and 6 endorsements (F, H, N, P, S, T).

What are the requirements for a driver license?

Drivers must be 18 years old or 16 years old and have completed an approved driver education course. Persons 15 years and 6 months old, enrolled in a driver education course, may apply for an instruction permit. Drivers must pass written, sign, vision, and road tests. New drivers under 18 must have an instruction permit for at least 6 months before taking the road test, be conviction-free for at least 6 months prior to application of their probationary license and have at least 30 hours of driving practice (10 hours at night) before a probationary license can be issued.

Who does not need a Wisconsin driver license?

Non-resident visitors to the state and members of the armed forces and their families living in Wisconsin but with permanent residence elsewhere, are not required to obtain a Wisconsin driver license. However, they must have a valid driver license from their home jurisdiction and be at least 16 years of age to operate a motor vehicle in Wisconsin. If residency is established, they must obtain a Wisconsin license within 30 days. Non-registered farm machinery may also be moved short distances via highways without a driver license.

What documentation must be provided?

An applicant must provide:

- proof of name and date of birth (e.g., a certified birth certificate or passport)
- one form of personal identification with signature or photo (if moving to Wisconsin from another state, the license or ID card from that state must be surrendered)
- Social Security number
- proof of completion of an approved driver education course if under age 18

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- the signature of an approved adult sponsor (e.g., parent/legal guardian) evidencing sponsorship or acceptance of financial responsibility for the minor as an operator, if applicant is under 18

What does a license cost?

License fees are:

Non-Commercial Driver License

Instruction permit	\$25
Motorcycle instruction permit	\$22
Driving skills exam	
Auto (Class D)	\$15
Motorcycle (Class M)	\$15
Original Probationary or Regular License	
Auto (Class D)	\$18
Motorcycle (Class M)	\$12
Renewal License – 8 year	
Auto (Class D)	\$24
Motorcycle (Class M)	\$8
4-year extension (Class D)	\$12
(Class D/M)	\$16

Commercial Driver License

Instruction permit	\$20
Driving skills exam (except school bus)	
(Class A, B, C)	\$20
School bus skills exam (Class B, C, D)	\$15
Original or Renewal License	
(Class A, B and/or C with or	
without endorsements	\$64
Add Class(es) to existing license	\$5
Add Endorsements (each) to existing license	\$5
Lift (No CMV operation in interstate commerce)	\$4
restriction	
Lift (No CMV operation with air brakes) restriction	\$5

For more information contact:

Bureau of Driver Services
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